

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11922 251441Z

67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04

SAJ-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 EUR-12 AF-06 /106 W

----- 020700

R 251158Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8145

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 11922

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, IS

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS COVERAGE OF PASSAGE ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH
CANAL

REF: CAIRO 11845

1. ALL THREE CAIRO DAILIES NOVEMBER 25 REPORTED COMMENTS OF
DR. RIF'AT MAHGUB, FIRST SECRETARY OF ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE,
CONCERNING GOE AGREEMENT TO PASSAGE ISRAELI NON-MILITARY CARGOES
THROUGH SUEZ CANAL.

2. ADDRESSING GROUP OF ARAB STUDENTS FROM BRITAIN, MAHGUB
REPORTEDLY ACCUSED SYRIAN BA'ATH PARTY OF DELIBERATELY MISQUOTING
RELEVANT ARTICLE OF SINAI II AGREEMENT, SAYING THAT GOE HAD AGREED
TO PASSAGE OF ISRAELI "SHIPS" RATHER THAN "SHIPMENTS" THROUGH CANAL.
SYRIA, HE SAID, HAD ACCEPTED UNSC RESOLUTION 242, WHICH GUARANTEED
FREEDOM OF PASSAGE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL WATERWAYS. HE ADDED THAT
SINCE ISRAELI NON-MILITARY CARGOES USED TO PASS THROUGH CANAL IN
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NEUTRAL SHIPS BETWEEN 1957 AND 1967, THEIR PASSAGE NOW IS
NOT NEW.

3. COMMENT: INTERESTING THAT FIRST REFERENCE IN PRESS TO
PASSAGE OF ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH CANAL FROM AN OFFICIAL
SOURCE IS REBUTTAL OF ALLEGED SYRIAN MISREPRESENTATION. MAHGUB'S
REMARKS PROBABLY PROMPTED LESS BY EGYPTIAN DECISION TO BE MORE
OPEN ON THIS SUBJECT THAN BY APPARENT RENEWED EGYPTIAN DECISION
LAUNCH RELATIVELY LIMITED COUNTERATTACK AGAINST SYRIAN CRITICISM
OF EGYPTIAN POLICIES, FOLLOWING CAIRO'S PROPAGANDA HIATUS WHILE
SADAT WAS VISITING EUROPE AND US (SEPTEL).
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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06 JUL 2006

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